

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 regarding claims 1 to 195. Group I comprises claims 1-155, 194 and 195 and Group II comprises claims 156-193. By this paper, Applicants elect Group I with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that both claim 1 and claim 156 are directed to the same general process of producing controllable yields of a combination of products selected from the group consisting of (a) phenol and methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) and (b) phenol, acetone and MEK. Further, the first two steps and the last step in the process of each of these claims are essentially the same.

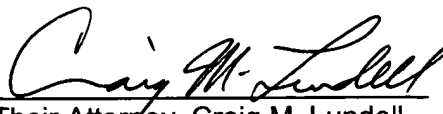
The main difference between claim 156 and claim 1 is the amount of details contained in the intermediate steps. However, Applicants submit that the additional detail contained in claim 156 is similar to the details contained in claims depending from claim 1. In particular, the Examiner is directed to claims 4, 27, 42, 45, 46, 49, 78, 87, 92, 93, and 97.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that examination of all of the claims in Group I will encompass the same elements necessary for examination of the claims in Group II. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is earnestly requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this election or the correspondence of the claims, the Examiner is requested to initiate a telephone conversation with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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